

Notes from December 18, 2012

Health Chapter Meeting



The following is a list of each group's policy responses/solutions to the issues that were identified from the October 18th meeting.

Group 1:

- Physical activity/active living.
- Address existing City ordinance regarding road maintenance/sidewalk maintenance.
- Impacts safe routes to school.
- Develop a partnership between the City and the community garden to establish a source of funding. Research what other communities have done.
- Require the City to perform a Health Impact Assessment on projects that may affect the community or infrastructure.
- The City should continue to research sand mining/transport and the potential impacts on communities.
- Research what other communities are doing to improve green building codes and encourage green building development.
- City to partner with JONAH to try and reduce/encourage treatment over incarceration.
- Research ways to develop and improve the public transit system.
- Develop partnerships with major organizations such as Mayo, Marshfield Clinic, CVTC...
- Research and develop pedestrian/bike access and paths throughout the city, including Clairemont Avenue area. Increase connectivity for pedestrians and alternative transportation.
- Impose regulations to eliminate second-hand smoke in parks and in apartments.
- City could consider developing incentives for builders/developers/homeowners to install renewable energy and energy-efficient appliances.

Group 2:

- Maps and directions for bike and hiking trails and paths.
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety – continue to improve.
- Increase availability of public restrooms.
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- Prohibit drive-thru restaurants in downtown district(s).
- Designate and promote City land for community gardens.
- Design streets to accommodate motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Improve bus transfer center.
- Implement landlord licensing or similar program.
- Encourage and educate the advantages of higher density development.
- Design streets to reduce traffic speed.
- Continue to provide and study needs for high level street and trail lighting.

Group 3:

- Policy related to tobacco-free park events.
- Policy related to tobacco-free multi-unit residential units.
- Study policy options and map density/access/availability.
- Policy related to lighting city maintained trails.
- Policy related to use of international signage.
- Explore policy opportunities related to HIA & CPTED as part of permitting process.
- Explore partnerships with schools/UWEC related to increasing access for physical activity and increasing safety. Flynn/Putnam as pilots.
- Explore pilot policy for City employees/school district employees for farm → work available.

Group 4:

- Physical Activity:
 - Safe routes to parks as well as schools – could be modeled after school safe plans
 - Could the bus transfer station be revamped – have bathrooms
 - Parks need facilities available
 - Warming houses for winter use
 - Bird
- Web site – Eau Claire fit – w/partnerships – schools – pools
- Challenge area – liability/waivers possible
- Community space in neighborhoods conducive to farmer’s markets, music, education, gathering for community members
- Organizations/collaborations for farmers
 - Hire someone to help establish farm-to-school programs to implement good nutrition (K-12, university, hospitals).
- Refocus on neighborhood development – shops, cafes.

Group 5:

- Identify the most “at risk” neighborhoods: obesity, poverty, low food access, crime/safety, and implement change in those neighborhoods first.
- Eau Claire “health improvement partnership” overseeing all the committees.
- BMI mapping: obtain data on group health, hospitals (physicals), school nurses. Use as priority indicator for neighborhoods – access issues from there (i.e., playgrounds, healthy food access, lights/safe trails)
- Unused City land plots used for community/rental gardens spread throughout the city: hospital space, schools, churches.
- Mapping food deserts.
- Make sure each neighborhood has an established walking/running route (safe) for exercise so people don’t need to “ditch run” or cross dangerous intersections.
- Bike lanes for healthy/safe transportation.
- Smoking in multi-use apartments (policy against):
 - Recognition to management companies, private landlords that create this policy
 - Maintaining grant funding for “anti-smokers”.

Group 6:

- Increase lighting on routes to work where people need to go.
- Signage, bump-outs, underpass.
- For safe routes to school – expand to work, parks, hospitals (where people need to go), shopping. Not to knock trails – not quantity.
- Core routes – covered w/light, no more than 4-6 blocks.
- Partner and learn how to enhance local food production, inviting stakeholders from education (CVTC), businesses (grocers), consumers (schools & families), distributors, to create a model or pilot (i.e., City – financial incentives, a grant program, or incubator).
- Develop a “complete streets” policy – initiative and philosophy car/bike/ped/public transit
- Utilize green space on each side of a road to eliminate boulevard and increase sidewalk for pedestrians/bicycles.
- Focus on and fund sustainability plan.

Group 7:

- Refocus, localize, build neighborhoods (as opposed to just the downtown).
- Farmers market – common space per neighborhood (City should buy more land for local food production/allow residents to use land).
- Provide funding to ECASD to develop F25 programs.
- Ease regulations (let farmers, small business, community activists subvert/ignore state/federal government).
- Incentivize neighborhood grocery stores.
- Promote free markets for food.
- Advocate for small-scale food production: opt-out of regulations/zoning ordinances.
- Community space for local food (parks, yards, conduits to and from).
- Start young – teach about food (how to grow, harvest, cook) at every level of school.
- Connect neighborhoods with farmers markets, grocery stores.